

PSC NEWS Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC SETS HEARING SCHEDULE IN TELEPHONE MERGER CASE

Jefferson City (July 12, 2002)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold hearings in mid-October in a telephone merger case involving the Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company (Northeast) and Modern Telecommunications Company (Modern).

Hearings, to be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building in Jefferson City, are scheduled to begin on **October 10, 2002. Hearings will continue through October 11, 2002, if necessary.** The Governor Office Building is a facility which meets the accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings should call the Missouri Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the hearings.

The Northeast and Modern are seeking Commission authority to merge Modern with and into Northeast. Modern is a wholly owned subsidiary of Northeast.

The Joint Applicants state that the proposed transaction will be "revenue neutral" to the customers of both companies and that no customer will experience a change in rates or loss of service due to the proposed merger.

Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Company provides service to approximately 4,700 access lines in Missouri. Modern Telecommunications Company provides service to approximately 4,400 access lines in the state.